United Nations A/53/283

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 August 1998
English
Original: English/French

Fifty-third session
Item 113 (a) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: implementation of human rights instruments

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/53/150.

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I. Presentation of the Fund

1. A description of the mandate and administration of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is contained in the previous report of the Secretary-General (A/52/387, paras. 7-11). The Secretary-General has renewed the current membership of the Board of Trustees up to 31 December 2000.

II. Contributions and pledges

2. Every year, the Fund receives voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and private individuals. In order to meet requests for financing during the current year, contributions must be paid into the Fund before May, in order to be available and duly recorded when the annual session of the Board of Trustees is held. Any contribution made later is carried over to the following year.

A. Payment of contributions

1. Trends in the number of States contributing to the Fund

3. The number of States contributing to the Fund rose from 5 in 1982 to 37 in 1998 (1982:5, 1983:8, 1984:18, 1985:13, 1986:21, 1987:19, 1988:24, 1989:20, 1990:14, 1991:20, 1992:16, 1993:27, 1994, 30, 1995:25, 1996:26, 1997:32, 1998:37).

4. Subsequent to the Secretary-General's previous report to the General Assembly (A/52/387), 37 Governments made voluntary contributions to the Fund between 25 September 1997 and 31 July 1998, as indicated in table 1.

Table 1
Government contributions from 25 September 1997 to 31 July 1998

Government	*Contribution (United States dollars)*	*Year*	*Contribution number*
Algeria	5 000	1998	6
Argentina	2 000	1997	8
	5 000	1998	9
Australia	60 620	1998	6
Austria	20 000	1998	15
Belgium	82 487	1998	8
Canada	17 099	1998	15
Chile	10 000	1998	6
Cyprus	945	1998	10
Denmark	288 830	1998	16
Finland	186 986	1997	15
	179 380	1998	16
France	80 515	1997	19
Germany	17 442	1997	15
	112 359	1998	16

Government	*Contribution (United States dollars)*	*Year*	*Contribution number*
Greece	10 300	1998	15
Holy See	1 000	1997	3
Iceland	5 587	1998	12
Israel	5 000	1998	3
Italy	363 932	1994 to 1997	6 to 9
Japan	90 000	1997	12
Kenya	1 000	1998	5
Liechtenstein	6 622	1998	10
Malta	1 500	1997	4
Monaco	10 810	1997	4
	8 183	1998	5
Netherlands	378 517	1997	15
	36 914	1998	16
	486 097	1998	17
New Zealand	15 555	1998	12
Norway	133 642	1998	13
Peru	1 500	1998	1
Portugal	10 000	1997	2
Republic of Korea	15 000	1998	5
Senegal	974	1998	2
South Africa	30 000	1998	3
Spain	47 015	1997	12
Sri Lanka	1 000	1998	8
Switzerland	30 822	1998	10
Tunisia	1 541	1997	7
United Kingdom	51 621	1997	8
	116 667	1998	9
	83 333	1998	10
United States of America	1 500 000	1998	16
Venezuela	10 996	1998	1

5. The following should be noted with respect to table 1: Peru and Venezuela contributed to the Fund for the first time. The United Kingdom increased its 1998 contribution fourfold compared to 1997 and Norway and the Netherlands nearly doubled theirs compared to 1996. Australia and South Africa increased their contributions. Italy contributed the amounts it had pledged for the years 1994 to 1997. For the fifth consecutive year, the United States of America contributed $1.5 million, thus becoming the main contributor to the Fund ahead of Denmark, Finland, Germany, Japan, Norway and Sweden.

2. Contributions from non-governmental organizations and private individuals

6. A contribution of $105 was received from the Society of Friends (Quakers) and a contribution of $5,080 from the Dutch section of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ). Ms. Rita Maran (United States of America) maintained her support for the Fund in 1997 with a donation of $25.

3. Contributions received in time for allocation at the seventeenth session of the Board

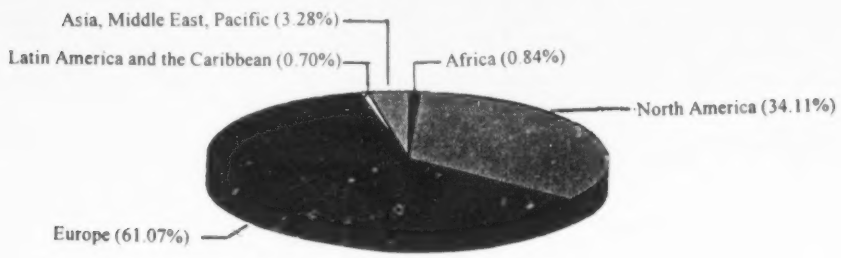
7. Table 2 lists the contributions received in time for allocation at the seventeenth session of the Board, that is to say, between 31 May 1997 and 10 May 1998:

Table 2
Contributions received in time for allocation at the seventeenth session of the Board

State	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*1997*	*1998*
Algeria	5 000		X
Argentina	3 000	X	
	2 000	X	
	5 000		X
Australia	50 000	X	
Austria	20 000	X	
	20 000		X
Belgium	82 487	X	
Canada	17 099		X
Chile	10 000		X
Cyprus	945		X
Denmark	288 830		X
Finland	186 986	X	
	179 380		X
France	80 515	X	
Germany	11 561	X	
	17 442	X	
Greece	10 300	X	
	10 300		X
Holy See	1 000	X	
Israel	5 000		X
Japan	90 000	X	
Liechtenstein	6 622		X
Luxembourg	11 197	X	
Malta	1 500	X	
Monaco	10 810	X	
	8 183		X
Netherlands	378 517	X	
	36 914		
	486 097		X
Norway	138 246	X	

State	*Amount (United States dollars)*	*1997*	*1998*
Portugal	10 000	X	
Senegal	974		X
South Africa	30 000		X
Spain	47 015	X	
Sri Lanka	1 000	X	
	1 000		X
Sweden	388 601	X	
Switzerland	30 822	X	
Tunisia	1 541	X	
United Kingdom	51 621	X	
	116 667		X
	83 333		X
United States of America	1 500 000		X
Venezuela	10 996		X
Quakers	105	X	
Ms. Maran	25		X
Total	**4 448 631**		

Graph 1
Contributions received for the seventeenth session



B. Pledges

8. Government pledges to the Fund are made either directly to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, or at the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, held in New York, or at the annual session of the Commission on Human Rights, held in Geneva.

9. The following pledges were received as at 31 July 1998.

Country	*United States dollars*	*Year*
Andorra	5 000	1997
Australia	100 000 $A	1998
Brazil	10 000	1995
	10 000	1996
	10 000	1997
France	83 195	1998
Italy	92 754	1998
Luxembourg	22 535	1998
Philippines	10 000	1998
Portugal	15 000	1998
Sweden	380 000	1998
Switzerland	30 822	1998
United States of America	300 000	1998

C. How to make a contribution to the Fund

10. To contribute to the Fund by bank transfer, pay to: "United Nations Geneva General Fund", c/o Société de banque suisse, B. P. 2770, CH-1211 Genève 2, either in United States dollars (specify account No. CO-590-160.1) or in Swiss francs (specify account No. CO-590-160.0). Payment may also be made by cheque, payable to "the United Nations", addressed to:

Trésorerie, ONU, Palais des Nations, CH-1211 Genève 10,

or to:

Treasury, United Nations, New York, NY 10017, United States.

In all cases, please specify the following:

"payee: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, account CH".

III. Funds available

Amount of funds available for the seventeenth session

11. The Board of Trustees of the Fund held its seventeenth session at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 11 to 22 May 1998. In accordance with the rules governing the Voluntary Fund, 15 per cent of estimated annual expenditures must be earmarked as a reserve for the following year, and 13 per cent is the rate set for programme support costs.

After that reserve and support costs were deducted from the total contributions received in time for allocation at the seventeenth session of the Board, the total amount available on 11 May 1998, the first day of the seventeenth session of the Board of Trustees, came to US$ 4,210,000.

Amount available for the eighteenth session

12. A total amount of US$ 714,275 was received after 22 May 1998. This amount will be allocated at the eighteenth session in May 1999. The contributions were made by the following donors: Australia ($50,000), Germany ($60,620), Iceland ($5,587), Italy ($363,932), Kenya ($1,000), New Zealand ($15,555), Norway ($133,642), Peru ($1,500) and the Republic of Korea ($15,000). An amount of $5,080 was also received from the Netherlands section of the International Commission of Jurists. It should be recalled that an amount of $6.8 million was requested from the Fund in 1998. Should requests for financing remain at this level in 1999, contributions in the amount of approximately $6 million would have to be paid before May 1999 in order to fully meet such requests.

IV. Disbursements

Requests for assistance received

13. Requests for assistance for victims of torture are constantly increasing. In 1996, more than $5 million was requested from the Fund for 96 projects and sub-projects. In 1998, $6.8 million was requested for 118 projects in 54 countries.

Recommendations of the Board of Trustees at its seventeenth session

14. The Board of Trustees made project grant recommendations earmarking all available funds, i.e. US$ 4,210,000, of which $100,000 was for urgent grants falling between annual sessions of the Board of Trustees. Of that amount, payment of $3,266,725 is now being made for projects whose grants were not tied to any particular condition. An amount of $943,275 (including $100,000 from the emergency fund) is still pending and may be paid by the next session of the Board of Trustees for projects on which additional information was requested, once the organizations concerned provide the secretariat with the information requested by the Board of Trustees. It should also be recalled that, at its sixteenth session, the Board had recommended $3,036,054, of which $2,407,854 was paid in August 1997 and $388,000, between August 1997 and May 1998. A balance of $261,000 was therefore available for the seventeenth session.

Methods of work

15. For a detailed description of the guidelines for the consideration of requests for project financing and of assisted programmes (selection criteria, submission of a grant request, role of the Fund secretariat and of the Board of Trustees, types of requests received, urgent grants, etc.), the reader is referred to the reports of the Secretary-General (A/50/512, chap. IV, and A/48/520, annex I, the Secretary-General's consolidated report on 10 years (1982–1992) of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture).

16. Every year, since its first session, the Board of Trustees has adopted and, where necessary, revised its guidelines on the processing of the funding proposals received and the assisted projects. These guidelines are contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/48/520, annex I, chap. III and appendices II, IV and V, and annex V). The Board

transmits its recommendations to the Secretary-General for approval, and he reports thereon to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

Decisions of the Fund secretariat

17. On 5 June 1998, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on behalf of the Secretary-General, approved the Board's recommendations on grants to 114 projects presented by 105 humanitarian organizations in 53 countries. Paragraph 21 below lists the organizations that authorized the Fund secretariat to mention the awarding of a grant in 1998. During the seventeenth session, the Board of Trustees heard, in closed meetings, eight representatives of organizations carrying out nine different projects. Despite the late payment of pledged amounts and the small number of regular donor States (37 out of a possible 187), the Board made an effort to honour every request for funding which met the selection criteria by awarding approximately 40 per cent of the budget requested, or sometimes more, according to the cost of the treatments offered and the number of victims assisted. Priority was given to the organizations which had most fully met the Board's requirements in terms of the submission of narrative and financial reports on the use of previous grants. Table 3 below shows the geographical distribution of grants recommended in 1998.

Table 3

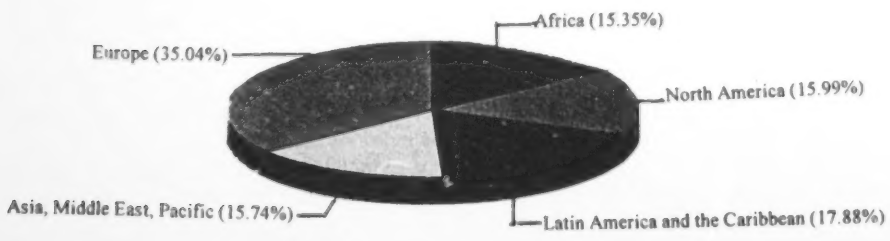
Geographical distribution of grants recommended in 1998

Region[a]	*Number of countries*	*Number of projects*	*Number of organizations*	*Grants (in United States dollars)*
1. Africa	13	17	17	631 000
2. North America	2	21	20	657 000
3. Latin America and the Caribbean	11	21	20	735 000
4. Asia, Middle East and Pacific	9	15	14	647 000
5. Europe	18	40	34	1 440 000
Total	**53**	**114**	**105**	**4 110 000**

[a] This regional distribution is based on the division of Member States of the General Assembly into regional groups and is employed to facilitate the work of the Fund secretariat and the Board of Trustees; it reflects the fact that many projects provide assistance to victims of torture in different countries of the same region.

Graph 2

Grants awarded in 1998



18. It should be noted that the grants awarded to organizations in North America and Western Europe are used for the treatment of victims of torture from a great many countries in other regions of the world, mainly applicants for asylum and refugee torture victims. It has been known for many years that at least 50 per cent of such applicants and refugees seeking asylum who have been subjected to any form of detention in their country of origin have been tortured.

19. From the establishment of the Fund until 22 May 1998, 299 files were started by the Fund secretariat. One organization may submit several projects, which may give rise to a number of subprojects.

20. At the end of its seventeenth session, the Board of Trustees held a press conference and an information briefing with representatives of interested donor States to announce how the funds would be disbursed.

21. The following organizations received support in 1998: Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo (Argentina), ACAT (Association des Chrétiens pour l'abolition de la torture) (Mexico), ACTV (African Centre for Treatment and Rehabilitation of Torture Victims) (Uganda), AMECON (Africa War Victims Medical Concern) (Uganda), Amigos de los Sobrevivientes (Oregon, United States), ATYHA (Centro de Alternativas en Salud Mental) (Paraguay), AVRE (Association pour les victimes de la répression en exil) (Paris), BALAY Incorporated (Quezon City, Philippines), Behandlungszentrum für Folteropfer (Berlin), CAPSDH-Burundi (Comission africaine des promoteurs de la santé et des droits de l'homme) (Bujumbura), CAPSDH-Ghana (Accra), CAPSDH-Guinea (Guinea), CAPSDH-Mozambique (Mozambique), CARITAS (Cologne), CCVT (Canadian Centre for Victims of Torture) (Toronto), Centre for Justice and Accountability (California, United States), CDHES (Comisión de derechos humanos de El Salvador) (El Salvador), CEDAVIDA (Fundación Social Colombiana) (Bogotá), CEFPRODHAC (Centro de Estudios Fronterizos y de Promoción de los Derechos Humanos) (Tamaulipas, Mexico), CEJIL (Centre for Justice and International Law) (Washington, D.C.), Centre for Rehabilitation of War and Torture Survivors (Sweden), Centro Alternativas (Chile), CINTRAS (Centro de Salud Mental y Derechos Humanos) (Santiago), CMHS (Center for Multicultural Human Services) (Virginia, United States), CNDDHH (Coordinadora Nacional de Derechos Humanos) (Peru), CODESEDH (Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Ética Profesional y los Derechos Humanos) (Buenos Aires), COMEDE (Comité médical pour les exilés) (Paris), COMISEDH (Comisión de Derechos Humanos) (Peru), Cordelia Foundation (Hungary), CCRJ (Consulting Centre for Constitutional Rights and Justice) (Nigeria), CVICT (Centre for Victims of Torture) (Kathmandu), CVT (Center for Victims of Torture) (Minnesota, United States), EATIP (Equipo Argentino de Trabajo e Investigación Psicosocial) (Buenos Aires), ECSTT (Edmonton Centre for Survivors of Torture and Trauma) (Edmonton, Canada), EXIL (Centre médico-psychosocial pour réfugiés) (Brussels), FASIC (Fundación de Ayuda Social de las Iglesias Cristianas) (Santiago), FIND (Family of Victims of Involuntary Disappearance) (Philippines), FRC (Family Rehabilitation Centre) (Colombo), Geneva Initiative on Psychiatry and Ukrainian Psychiatric Association (Amsterdam), HRFT (Human Rights Foundation of Turkey) (Ankara/Istanbul/Izmir, Turkey); ICAR (Medical Rehabilitation Center for Victims of Torture) (Bucharest/Craiova/Iasi, Romania), International Society for Human Rights (United Kingdom); IRCT (International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims) (Copenhagen), JKC (Refugee Advice Centre; Pakistan), Justice pour Tazmamart (France), Kanyarwanda (Rwanda), LRCT (Lahore Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Survivors) (Pakistan), LAPPH (Ligue des anciens prisonniers politiques haïtiens, des amis et parents de disparus) (Port-au-Prince), Marjorie Kovler Center (Chicago, United States), Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture (London), Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims (Greece), Methodist

Church of Southern Africa (Durban, South Africa), Moscow Compassion Centre (Russian Federation), Movimiento Ecuménico para los Derechos Humanos (MOUTH), OMCT/SOS Torture (World Organization against Torture) (Geneva), OMEGA (Graz, Austria), OCISO (Ottawa-Carlton Immigrant Services Organization) (Canada), Physicians for Human Rights (Israel), POC (Prisoners of Conscience Appeal Fund) (London), Primo Levi (Paris), PTV (Program for Torture Victims) (California, United States), RCTV (Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims) (Ioannina, Greece), Red de Apoyo por la Justicia y la Paz (Caracas), Redress (London), Refugee Mental Health Access Project (Colorado, United States), Refugio (Bremen, Germany), Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (Bosnia), Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture (Croatia), Restart Centre (Tripoli), RIVO (Réseau d'intervention auprès des personnes ayant subi la violence organisée) (Montreal), SERSOC (Uruguay), SMRC (Medical Rehabilitation Centre for Victims of Torture), (Riga), Survivors of Torture International (California, United States), Survivors International of Northern California (United States), Swedish Red Cross (Malmö/Skovde/Stockholm/Uppsala, Sweden), Swiss Red Cross (Berne), TNM (Tortura Nunca Mais) (Rio de Janeiro), TOHAV (Turkey), TRUSTT (Brisbane), VAST (Vancouver Association for the Survivors of Torture) (Vancouver), VAT (Voice Against Torture) (Islamabad), Victim Services (New York), XENION (Berlin), ZEBRA (Zentrum zur sozialmedizinischen, rechtlichen und kulturellen Betreuung von Ausländern und Ausländerinnen) (Graz, Austria), as well as 17 other humanitarian organizations that provide medical, psychological and social assistance or train health professionals.

V. Fund-raising

A. Appeals by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights

22. In its resolution 36/151 of 16 December 1981, by which it established the Fund, the General Assembly authorized the Board of Trustees to promote and solicit contributions and pledges. It also requested the Secretary-General to give the Board of Trustees all the assistance it might require and appealed to all Governments to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund.

23. In keeping with the programme of work it outlined in decision 48/431 of 20 December 1993, the General Assembly adopts resolutions concerning the Fund only in even years. Resolution 51/86 of 12 December 1996 is the latest one it has adopted on the matter. The Assembly, in this resolution, and the Commission on Human Rights, in resolution 1998/38 of 9 April 1998, appealed to all Governments, organizations and individuals in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions to the Fund, if possible on a regular basis and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund. The General Assembly should adopt a resolution concerning the Fund in 1998.

B. Letters to States

24. The Board of Trustees greatly appreciated the initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in sending, on 10 November 1997, a letter to the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of States that had never contributed to the Fund, inviting them to do so for the first time, and another letter to States that were regular contributors, encouraging them to increase their support (see paras. 3-9 above).

VI. International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June

25. In its resolution 52/149, the General Assembly proclaimed 26 June United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. On that occasion, the Committee Against Torture, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on torture and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights adopted a joint declaration, which is reproduced in annex I. In addition, at a gathering organized by IRCT in Copenhagen, Mr. Lamin Sise delivered a message on behalf of the Secretary General, which is reproduced in annex II. To celebrate this day, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights organized an exhibition of works by victims of torture at the Palais des Nations from 25 June to 2 July 1998. The exhibit included around 100 paintings, posters, drawings, photographs and sculptures sent to the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture by some 30 organizations that have assisted such victims and their families, thanks to the financial support they receive from the Fund (see also press releases SG/SM/6610, HR/4372 and HR/98/42).

26. An exhibit was also organized at United Nations Headquarters in New York by the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations. A number of events, including seminars and art, poetry and essay contests on the subject of torture, were held around the world to celebrate this day.

VII. Conclusions

27. The Fund's support is vital for the organizations concerned, because sources of funding for assistance to victims of torture are limited, and because programmes of assistance to victims are sometimes halted owing to insufficient financing. Ever-increasing financial support is needed. Donors wishing to contribute to the Fund are requested to refer to paragraph 10 above for information regarding modalities of payment; for further information, they may also consult the Fund secretariat, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. By contributing to the Fund States demonstrate their commitment to combating torture and their solidarity with the victims, and enable the latter to receive medical, psychological, social or legal assistance and to lead more or less "normal" lives. According to information available to the High Commissioner, assistance granted by the Fund in 1997 made it possible to help approximately 59,000 victims of torture throughout the world.

Annex I

Joint declaration on the occasion of 26 June 1998, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture

The Committee against Torture, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on questions relating to torture and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, meeting at the United Nations Office at Geneva on 19 May 1998, in anticipation of the occasion of 26 June 1998, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture,

Recalling the appeal against torture of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, made at Copenhagen on 28 June 1994, in which he stated that ending torture is a beginning of true respect for the most basic of all human rights – the intrinsic dignity and value of each individual,

Welcoming the decision of the General Assembly to declare 26 June International Day in Support of Victims of Torture,

Recognizing that torture is one of the vilest acts to be perpetrated by human beings upon each other,

Recognizing that torture is prohibited by article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Recognizing that torture is a breach of a non-derogable human right and a crime under international law,

1. *Urge all States* to ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment without reservation, if they have not already done so;

2. *Urge States Parties* to the Convention that have not yet accepted its optional provisions to do so as soon as possible;

3. *Urge all States* to ensure that torture is a crime in their domestic law, and to rigorously pursue perpetrators whenever the act is committed and bring them to justice;

4. *Urge all States* to provide for compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of torture in their domestic law;

5. *Urge all States* to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture as fully and as often as they can;

6. *Urge all States* to cooperate with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture in fulfilling his or her mandate when requested to do so;

7. *Consider* that by these means the vile crime of torture may be condemned and suppressed by all the people of the world.

Annex II

Message of the Secretary-General on the occasion of 26 June 1998, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture*

Copenhagen, 26 June 1998

This is a day on which we pay our respects to those who have endured the unimaginable. This is an occasion for the world to speak up against the unspeakable. It is long overdue that a day be dedicated to remembering and supporting the many victims and survivors of torture around the world.

The date 26 June was not chosen at random. It was the day on which, 11 years ago, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment came into force after Denmark became the twentieth country to ratify the treaty. It was also the day on which 53 years ago, the Charter of the United Nations was signed – the first international treaty providing obligations for Member States to promote and encourage respect for human rights.

Just under four years ago, here at Copenhagen on 28 June 1994, the then High Commissioner for Human Rights, Mr. José Ayala Lasso, delivered an appeal against torture. That "Copenhagen Appeal" paid tribute to all those who work selflessly to relieve the suffering and assist the recovery of torture victims around the world. Their work, the work of the Copenhagen Centre and many other organizations and individuals, deserve the gratitude of the United Nations. We also very much appreciate the continued support of the Government of Denmark and other Governments, as well as non-governmental organizations, in the struggle to eradicate torture.

Since its birth, the United Nations has worked towards the goal of eradicating torture. Numerous legal and political means have been identified, approved and implemented. The Charter of the United Nations was the first international instrument to call for a specific commission for the promotion of human rights. One of the first tasks assigned to the Commission was to draft a declaration of rights.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, whose fiftieth anniversary we celebrate in 1998, provided for the first international prohibition of torture. Article 5 of the Declaration proclaims that "no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

Various international conventions have since reaffirmed, expanded and integrated that prohibition into positive public international law. They include the Geneva Conventions of 1949 on humanitarian law and the European, American and African regional conventions on human rights. The United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, currently meeting in Rome, is studying proposals concerning a mandate to cover torture. But as things stand today, sanctions are still sorely lacking at the international level.

More than 100 States have ratified the Convention Against Torture. That means they have accepted obligations to take effective measures to prevent acts of torture and to ensure that any act of torture is an offence punishable under their criminal law. Many national constitutions, criminal codes, laws and regulations proclaim the prohibition of torture. Yet torture is still reported even in those countries. And so, more than a decade after the

* Delivered by Mr. Lamin Sise, Principal Officer, Executive Office of the Secretary-General.

Convention Against Torture came into force, the international community has realized the need to place a further spotlight on this atrocious phenomenon. We should make use of this day to bring torture to the renewed attention of the world's conscience.

In 1998, the four main United Nations organs working on questions relating to torture issued a Joint Declaration (see annex I above). The Committee against Torture, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on questions relating to torture and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights urged all States to ratify the Convention against Torture without reservation if they have not already done so; to ensure that torture is a crime in their domestic law and rigorously pursue perpetrators whenever the act is committed and bring them to justice; to provide for compensation and rehabilitation of the victims of torture in their domestic law; to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture as fully and as often as they can; and to cooperate with the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture in fulfilling his or her mandate when requested to do so.

The Joint Declaration expresses the hope that by these means, the vile crime of torture may be condemned and suppressed by all the people of the world.

The United Nations was founded to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person, and to create better standards of life in larger freedom. We cannot get anywhere near fulfilling that pledge unless we wipe the scourge of torture off the face of the earth. Let us, therefore, seize this day. Today, the United Nations appeals to all Governments and members of civil society to take action, every year, at the international, regional, national, provincial, community, village, professional, family and individual levels, to defeat torture and tortures everywhere.

The United Nations will support you every step of the way, until the day arrives when torture is finally consigned to the darkest spaces of history and historical museums. In conclusion, the message to be sent from this splendid hall here at Copenhagen and from other observances around the world is that the torture of one human being torments the consciences of all human beings. Action, not indifference, must be the motto to eradicate torture and support in the rehabilitation of its victims.

United Nations A/53/284

General Assembly

Distr.: General
20 August 1998
English
Original: French

Fifty-third session
Item 113 (b) of the provisional agenda*
Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance

Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/95 of 12 December 1996.

* A/53/150.

98-24949 (E) 221098 221098

Report on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1996–1998)

1. In its resolution 51/95, adopted on 12 December 1995, the General Assembly recalled its resolutions 47/124, 48/126 and 49/213 concerning the United Nations Year for Tolerance (1995). In that resolution it asked UNESCO to coordinate actions in support of tolerance promotion and education in partnership with other United Nations agencies and regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. It also asked UNESCO to make reports available to it on a biennial basis on the implementation of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance (adopted on 16 November 1995). This report is submitted pursuant to that resolution.

I. Observance of the first International Day for Tolerance throughout the world in 1996

2. This first International Day for Tolerance coincided with the consideration of the final report on the Year for Tolerance, the Declaration of Principles and the Follow-up Plan of Action. Numerous States supported the UNESCO Tolerance Programme and its publications on the matter were distributed.

3. In the Philippines, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports circulated a Presidential Proclamation on the Day to all the schools in the country. UNESCO associated schools received the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and the Follow-up Plan of Action, together with translations into the national language. They organized special events, including an essay contest for high-school students on "What Tolerance Means to Me". The book *Values Education for Peace and Tolerance through History* was launched on the Day.

4. The Egyptian Government marked the Day with a televised ceremony at the Cairo Opera house during which the flags of tolerance were raised. The Polish, Costa Rican, Ecuadorian and Kuwaiti Governments also displayed the flags and they were featured along with 1,000 copies of the new Helmut Langer tolerance posters, in displays exhibitions organized by the Aichi prefectural authorities in Japan.

5. In the Russian Federation, the ITAR-TASS news agency disseminated the Director-General's message on the Day. The Russian National Commission distributed the Day's UNESCO press release to the media. UNESCO associated schools observed the Day with special lessons, and raised the flags of tolerance. The National Conference of Associated Schools focused on tolerance promotion programmes; the newspaper *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* published an article on tolerance in post-Communist societies.

6. The Government of Madagascar organized a song-writing competition on tolerance in the context of a cultural campaign involving singers, writers, painters and journalists, as well as UNESCO clubs. The Togolese Federation of UNESCO clubs and associations organized a week of activities to promote tolerance. In Chad, the Government organized a drawing contest, a televised round table meeting and a cultural programme of music, poetry and dance.

7. The Government of the Netherlands Antilles printed posters, brochures, buttons and calendars. The Turkish Ministry of Education organized a large-scale observance of the Day in universities and schools involving conferences, competitions, prizes and artistic events on the theme of tolerance. The International Foundation for Human Development of Hyderabad, India sponsored essay contests and radio broadcasts, publicized the Day in the *Asia Pacific Link Newsletter* and organized youth rallies at the Government College of Mahbubnagar in Marikal.

8. In New York, the flags of tolerance flew for several weeks at 60 Wall Street opposite the New York Stock Exchange. In London, they were hung in the hall used for the MTV European Music Awards.

9. Many national commissions, including those of Egypt, Colombia, Chad, Romania (which organized a large-scale observance in the schools), Senegal, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Gabon, Greece, Guinea, Ecuador, Mexico, the Philippines, Argentina, Brazil, Mozambique and Suriname, distributed sets of the four colour posters on tolerance for children.

10. UNESCO regional offices were also very active, particularly those in Abidjan, El Salvador, Brasilia, Mozambique, Benin, Togo, Bangkok, Peru and Zambia, as was the Regional Centre for Higher Education in Latin America and the Pacific in Caracas. The regional office in Montevideo translated, printed and distributed 12,000 copies of the poster sets to all public schools in Uruguay, published inserts about the Day in several newspapers and organized a national essay contest on the subject of tolerance in

cooperation with the Carlos Milies Foundation, which had already organized a one-day seminar on tolerance in October. The national commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Korea produced and distributed the tolerance posters in Korean. The associated schools in Australia, Zaire and Argentina also distributed the posters as did the UNESCO clubs in the east central Burkina Faso and the French-speaking community in Belgium. Finally, the Day was announced on the Vatican Radio.

II. Observance of the International Day for Tolerance throughout the World in 1997

11. All countries without exception resorted to the media, whether the written press or radio and television. Articles on tolerance and on the fight against violence were published in various national newspapers, either by the national commissions of Member States or by their prominent writers, as in the case of Egypt.

12. Some countries, such as Benin, Brazil, Germany, Senegal, Togo and Uganda, held many public events, including cultural conferences and meetings, seminars and speeches, some of which were broadcast on television and the radio. Several cultural and scientific themes were the subject of debates: in Brazil, there was a seminar on the theme "Science, scientists and tolerance".

13. Considerable efforts were made to inform schoolchildren by reading or distributing the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance (Kuwait and the Philippines); disseminating a text on the theme of tolerance (Lebanon); devoting lessons to tolerance in all schools (Senegal); organizing fora called "Fora and exchanges" (Togo). In other cases, posters calling on people to fight for tolerance were posted in all the libraries (Trinidad and Tobago).

14. In India, Egypt and Kuwait, an important place was given to games and other game-related activities on the theme of tolerance. People were also encouraged to write essays or short stories such as *Nous vivons ensemble bien que nous soyons different* and *La tolerance dans l'Islam* (Egypt).

15. The French federation of UNESCO clubs concluded two years of work on intolerance and social stereotypes with a workshop on that theme for young people (7 and 8 December 1997).

16. In Côte d'Ivoire, children were given pins with the UNESCO logo and various educational institutions received presents and sports equipment. The Filofil company in Lille, France, created a tolerance chart made up of texts against racism and exclusion written by young people between the ages of 8 and 16 (March 1998).

17. The UNESCO club UJAMAA in the Democratic Republic of the Congo instituted a Tolerance Cup sporting competition and organized several children's contests on the theme of tolerance and the culture of peace. For its part the Federation togolaise des associations et clubs UNESCO organized, as part of the annual tolerance week which has been observed since 1995, a UNESCO cup for tolerance which took place in Lomé.

18. Côte d'Ivoire organized a football match between journalists from various press centres.

19. The Egyptian Government had the tolerance banners fly in front of the building housing the Egyptian newspaper *Al-Ahram* all day on 16 November 1997.

20. Kuwait, for its part, issued postage stamps on the theme of tolerance. They can be obtained from the Kuwaiti National Commission for UNESCO.

21. At UNESCO headquarters, the Day saw the launching of the first film festival against exclusion and for tolerance. It was organized by the Unit for Tolerance of the Division of Human Rights, Democracy and Peace of the Social and Human Sciences Sector, in cooperation with the town of Drancy, France and the Drancy Camp historical preservation trust. It continued for an entire week from 16 to 23 November 1997.

III. Pedagogical activities

22. A set of the four educational tolerance posters produced in 1996 by the Unit for Tolerance was distributed to all national commissions and associated schools. A second printing was made in 1997, with additional language versions. In 1997, the UNESCO Education Sector produced a three-volume tolerance teaching guide, intended for primary schools, secondary schools and teacher-training institutions, for sale by UNESCO Publishing in English, French and Spanish. It also established an Asia/Pacific Network for International Education and Values Education to promote regional education policies, teaching materials and teacher training on those issues, including education for tolerance.

23. A tolerance teaching kit was produced in 1997 by the French non-governmental organization, Secours catholique, under contract with UNESCO. An international Forum on

Education for Non-Violence was held in Sintra, Portugal, from 22 to 24 May 1996. It launched an interregional project to establish a culture of peace and non-violence in educational institutions, including school pilot projects in various regions.

24. In January 1996 the UNESCO Office in New Delhi organized a seminar in Sri Lanka on the theme "Tolerance and national reconciliation, which focused on multilingual education.

25. The Argentine association Centro de Información para el Desarrollo sponsored with UNESCO a conference on tolerance education (28 June 1996).

26. A special project involving an international survey on young people's perceptions of violence on the screen was carried out in 1996 and 1997 as a joint research project by the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the University of Utrecht. More than 5,000 students from 23 different countries (Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Brazil, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Fiji, Germany, India, Japan, Mauritius, the Netherlands, Peru, the Philippines, Qatar, South Africa, Tajikistan, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine) participated. The final report on the survey was published and presented at a press conference organized by the Director-General in February 1998. It was also presented at the second world summit on children's television in London in March 1998. There are plans to maintain an ongoing dialogue on this topic and close collaboration between the project partners. The results of the project will be discussed at length at a round table meeting scheduled to take place in Santiago, in December 1998, in the context of the world jamboree organized by the scouts.

27. The international centre for the exchange of information on children and screen violence established by UNESCO at the NORDICOM documentation centre at the University of Gotenberg, Sweden, published its first quarterly information letter and, in March 1998, its first directory entitled *Children and Media Violence*.

28. The PROCALMUC project (literacy and training for women) is training 10,000 women in cooperation with the National Women's Bureau, the United Nations Development Programme, the Foundation for Public Interest, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women.

29. The UNESCO Participation Programme contributed to an international meeting to promote religious tolerance in South-East Asia, organized in Australia by the World Conference on Religion and Peace and towards the publication, by the Government of Tonga, of books on tolerance for primary school pupils, in the national language.

30. In 1998, an information and documentation centre "room for tolerance" was established within the Ministry of Justice of Brazil, as part of the national human rights campaign.

IV. Media

A. Printed and audio-visual press

31. The second Office of Public Information press kit on tolerance was distributed worldwide in 1996. A book entitled *Tolérance*, presenting an important series of photographs, paintings and texts, was published jointly by UNESCO Publishing and the Office of Public Information.

32. The UNESCO Office in Dakar organized a subregional workshop from 21 to 25 April, in Kigali, on the role of the press in promoting human rights, consolidating democracy and tolerance.

33. In the period 1996–1997 a series of technical meetings on the role of the media in promoting peace, tolerance and integration were held in Panama, El Salvador and Ecuador. Videos on the theme of unity in diversity produced in seven countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) were shown at the MIR film festival in Baku, in October 1996. Collaborative audio-visual productions of the Office of Public Information and Cable News Network resulted in eight broadcasts on the activities of the UNESCO Tolerance Programme, which were broadcast worldwide.

34. The UNESCO Tolerance Programme was presented at the third European Forum of media against racism and intolerance, which was held at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, France, on 21 March 1997.

35. On 25 March 1997 La Cinquième TV channel (France) celebrated the first Day for Tolerance, devoting all its programmes to that theme.

36. The UNESCO Tolerance Programme installed an Internet web-site on the UNESCO server in April 1997.

37. On 3 May 1997, UNESCO participated in the celebration of Freedom of the Press Day in Bilbao, Spain, within the framework of an international conference of journalists on the theme "Time for Tolerance – Journalism and the Challenge of Racism".

B. Publications

New language editions of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance

38. Pursuant to paragraph 2 (a) of resolution 28 C/5.6, adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its twentieth session (see A/51/201, annex, appendix II), the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance was published as a brochure and distributed in the six official languages of that organization in 1996. The Office of Public Information also published it, in a more attractive format, in three languages. It is also available, in three languages, on the Internet web-site on the UNESCO server. As of 1997, it was being translated into and distributed in several other languages.

39. The Bulgarian National Commission for UNESCO has translated the Declaration into Bulgarian and distributed it.

40. The National Commission for UNESCO of the Philippines has translated it into the national language and distributed it nationwide.

41. The German National Commission has translated the Declaration into German.

42. The University of São Paulo, in Brazil, with the support of the State authorities, printed and distributed it in Portuguese, together with the set of four educational posters on tolerance (September–October 1997).

Books and magazines

43. The collection of essays, *Tolérance, j'écris ton nom*, which is scheduled for translation into Spanish in 1998, was published by UNESCO in 1996. The text of the first Mahatma Gandhi memorial lecture was published in a book commemorating the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the birth of Mahatma Gandhi and the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

44. At the end of 1996, a special issue of the magazine *Diogenes* on the theme of tolerance was published by the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences. It contained reflections by prominent thinkers such as Paul Ricoeur, Octavio Paz and Abdelwahab Boudhiba, as well as the complete text of the Declaration of Principles on Tolerance.

45. In addition to the regular features on tolerance and the culture of peace published throughout 1995, the *UNESCO Courier* included an insert on tolerance in all its January 1997 issues.

46. The World Federation of UNESCO Associations, Centres and Clubs printed the Declaration in its bulletin *Confluences*, and several clubs organized contests and other activities around that theme.

47. The proceedings of the Tbilisi International Forum of 1995 were published in three languages under the title "The Meeting of Civilizations – Conflict or Dialogue".

48. Following the establishment of the Asia/Pacific Network, the first issue of the magazine *Central Asia and the Culture of Peace* was published in Bishkek, in June 1997. The publication contained the Declaration in Russian.

49. John Locke's *Epistola de Tolerancia* (1689) was published in Czech under the responsibility of Petr Horak (1997).

50. Following the establishment of the Mediterranean and Black Sea regional tolerance network, the Tbilisi Orbeliani Pedagogical University had the UNESCO publication *Democracy and Tolerance* translated into Georgian.

51. The UNESCO club of Verona, Italy, published the UNESCO guide to teaching tolerance, in Italian.

Miscellaneous

52. The UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Prize for the Promotion of Tolerance and Non-Violence, instituted in 1995 by the UNESCO Executive Board, was awarded for the first time, to Pro-Femmes Twese Hamwe, a federation of 32 Rwandese women's groups, at a ceremony organized at UNESCO headquarters on 18 November 1996. Three people also received honourable mentions. Other activities included an exhibition of tolerance posters presented by the NGO Standing Committee and the publication by UNESCO Press of a statement by the Director-General on the occasion of the International Day for Tolerance. A brochure in three languages, entitled "Ten ideas for observing the International Day for Tolerance", was produced and distributed in advance of the Day.

53. In the context of its twenty-eighth annual session the model United Nations Conference (The Hague, 21–26 January 1996) devoted a special meeting to the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

54. In 1996, the Government of Quebec, in Canada, organized a programme of activities spread out over the entire year.

55. On 1 May 1996, the Square of Tolerance was inaugurated at UNESCO headquarters. On 3 May 1996, the UNESCO Office in Maputo launched a public awareness tolerance campaign with the participation of members of Parliament, ministers, journalists, the United Nations and

non-governmental organizations. It also distributed UNESCO tolerance posters.

56. The UNESCO office in El Salvador promoted tolerance through a series of activities that included a peace festival, a military forum, a photo contest, and distribution of UNESCO tolerance posters to all political parties. Several workshops for women were held in the context of the Beijing Platform for Action (Fourth World Conference on Women, September 1995).

57. In Bolivia, the project "Ruta Quetzal Argentaria" presented the UNESCO tolerance flags to the public. The crew of the "Mata Rangi" Boat of Tolerance expedition reached Easter Island and Australia.

58. The closing concert of the summit of the seven major industrialized countries in Lyons, France, on 29 June 1996, was dedicated to tolerance. A benefit rock concert for tolerance organized by the UNESCO Youth Division in Paris, on 5 December 1996, drew some 5,000 people.

59. Pursuant to decision 151 EX/DEC.7.2 of the UNESCO Executive Board a debate on the theme "Youth and Tolerance" was organized in November 1997, within the context of the work of the twenty-ninth session of the General Conference.

60. A gala to benefit Yad la Yeled Memorial Museum of the Children of the Shoah was held on 4 March 1998 at UNESCO headquarters under the patronage of UNESCO; the keynote was the promotion of tolerance.

V. Four regional networks

61. As a direct result of the UNESCO Declaration of Principles on Tolerance and Follow-up Plan of Action for the United Nations Year for Tolerance, four regional networks were established, all of which seek to strengthen tolerance and non-violence in accordance with General Conference resolution 28 C/5.6.

A. Mediterranean/Black Sea Basin

62. An International Meeting of Experts for the Establishment of a Mediterranean and Black Sea Regional Network Against Intolerance, Discrimination and Violence was organized by the UNESCO Unit for Tolerance and the UNESCO Catalunya Centre, in Barcelona, Spain, on 8 and 9 September 1996. Participants from North Africa, Southern Europe, the Balkans and the Caucasus proposed a wide array of concrete activities ranging from the publication of "classics of tolerance" to interreligious and intercultural dialogue, to scholarships for young researchers. They volunteered to undertake some 20 specific projects and programmes to advance the causes of mutual understanding, conflict prevention, pluralism and human rights in the region. The Foundation for International Studies of the University of Malta offered its facilities to provide a small secretariat for the network, as well as a newsletter. Immediately following the meeting, the first action in the context of the new network was taken when the Board of Directors of Galatasaray University in Istanbul, Turkey, formally decided to offer a course on tolerance and UNESCO and to organize a congress on journalists and tolerance in the region.

B. Asia and Pacific

63. The International Meeting of Experts for the Establishment of an Asia and Pacific Regional Network Against Intolerance, Discrimination and Violence was organized by the UNESCO Unit for Tolerance and the National Commission for UNESCO of the Republic of Korea at Kwangju University, Republic of Korea, from 17 to 20 September 1996. Participants discussed the particular problems and challenges of the region, named institutional coordinators and advocated lines of action. A research centre for tolerance was established at Kwangju University and the latter agreed to act as local secretariat and to publish a newsletter for the network. The first newsletter was issued in June 1997.

C. Africa

64. An African Network for Tolerance, Non-Violence and Peace was established at a meeting organized in cooperation with the Senegalese National Commission for UNESCO from 28 to 30 April 1997, in Dakar. Both the Minister of Education and the Minister of Culture of Senegal attended. Representatives of some 10 African countries shared their experiences and views on ways of promoting tolerance and non-violence on the African continent. Specific proposals were made regarding the dissemination of information and the preparation of projects relating to education, social science research and sensitization of the media. The Senegalese National Commission for UNESCO was given the task of providing local secretariat services for the network.

D. Latin America

65. The decision to establish a network for tolerance and solidarity covering Latin America and the Caribbean was taken within the context of an international conference on "Science, Scientists and Tolerance" which was held from 18 to 22 November 1997 in São Paulo, Brazil. Advantage was taken of the presence of large numbers of participants from scientific and university circles to define the structure of the network, start an exchange of information and launch projects concerning tolerance and non-violence. Participants were of the view that the network should focus, as a matter of priority, on the role of scientists in promoting tolerance at the regional and global level. As experts and, so to speak, sole custodians of the latest knowledge, scientists, it was emphasized, should be ultra responsible citizens and should try to educate, inform and shape society. That concern would guide the work of the network. The University of São Paulo was asked to provide secretariat services for the network.

VI. Meetings and discussions

66. The National Commission of Kyrgyzstan for UNESCO hosted a conference on tolerance and early prevention of conflicts in Central Asia in Bishkek, from 4 to 6 June 1996.

67. The UNESCO Office in Quito organized a national conference on tolerance (4–6 June 1996) with the participation of educational establishments and the national youth bureau. It also organized, with the help of local universities, two academic conferences on the United Nations Year for Tolerance.

68. The first international conference organized by the Marques de Pombal Foundation and the Portuguese National Commission for UNESCO on "Tolerance/ Intolerance" was held in Lisbon, on 4 October 1996.

69. The international Institute of Philosophy organized a conference on "Philosophy and Tolerance" in Rabat from 10 to 14 October 1996.

70. In Medellin, Colombia, 80 representatives of indigenous organizations, members of Parliament, educators, military personnel and development agents participated in a round table meeting to discuss ways of combating violence at the local level (22 and 23 October 1996).

71. UNESCO participated in the World Youth Forum of the United Nations system (Vienna, 25–29 November 1996), *inter alia*, through a working group on "youth, tolerance, racism and xenophobia".

72. The Foundation for the Survival of Humanity hosted a conference in Moscow on ways to promote the ideals of tolerance and non-violence in the Russian Federation and the Commonwealth of Independent States, from 3 to 6 March 1997. The new Tbilisi International Centre is implementing a programme on education and teacher training in multinational societies.

73. "Tolerance – The threshold of peace" was the title of a subregional conference of the Commonwealth of Independent States organized in cooperation with the Foundation for the Survival of Humanity, the Academy of Natural Sciences and the Academy of Education of the Russian Federation; it was held in Moscow on 4 and 5 March 1997. The Academy of Natural Sciences printed – at its own expense – 5,000 copies of the UNESCO brochure entitled *Tolerance – The Threshold of Peace*, in Russian.

74. On 27 and 28 March 1997 an international forum against intolerance, organized by the Academie Universelle des Cultures under the patronage of Jacques Chirac, President of the French Republic, was held both at UNESCO and the University of La Sorbonne.

75. In April 1997 UNESCO organized, in Uruguay and Brazil, conferences for writers on the theme "Tolerance – The role of writers in the struggle for a culture of peace".

76. Within the context of the Children's Summit in Paris (9–13 June 1997), young people from 39 countries participated in a workshop to discuss what tolerance means to different nationalities and how to promote tolerance in daily life.

77. In Colombia, the Luis Carlos Galan Institute for Democracy is preparing several seminars and establishing a UNESCO Chair on tolerance and democracy, with the participation of schools, universities and non-governmental organizations.

78. The UNESCO Participation Programme has helped provide assistance to the Government of the Sudan to host a regional seminar on tolerance in Africa. It has also contributed, on the one hand, to the establishment of the Tbilisi International Centre for Peace and Tolerance for a Dialogue of Cultures and, on the other hand, for an international colloquium in Romania on the theme "Tolerance in the Balkans".

79. A ceremony to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Edict of Nantes was held at UNESCO headquarters on 18 February 1998; President Chirac delivered a statement.

80. A conference/discussion on the theme "Islam and Christianity" was held at UNESCO headquarters on

20 February 1998. The moderator was Hassan Bin Talal, Crown Prince of Jordan and author of a book, entitled *Christianity in the Arab World*, on the history of Christianity in the Middle East, which was first published in 1995. There was a lively discussion on the dialogue of the two major religions.

81. The tolerance centre organized a first seminar on women and tolerance, on 10 and 11 April 1998, in Belgrade. About 20 women from the various regions of Yugoslavia participated. The aim was to bring together women from different ethnic groups and have them exchange views on the human rights situation in that country. Two professors from the University of Belgrade also participated in the discussion. Everyone concluded that the situation of women in Yugoslavia has greatly deteriorated during the crisis, particularly in the minority groups. Women are pressured both outside the home, by the State, and within the home, because of patriarchal traditions, and thus they are a minority within each minority.

82. On 6 June 1998, the Belgrade Tolerance Centre also organized, with the support of the Westminister Foundation for Democracy, a seminar on "Women, Journalism and Tolerance".

83. Although the various activities and projects outlined above do not give an exhaustive picture of the work being done by Member States, non-governmental organizations and intergovernmental organizations, they nonetheless are a true reflection of the implementation of the campaign for tolerance launched in 1995 by the United Nations and UNESCO.